OCT. 17-18, 2003

Newfoundland and Labrador Teachers' Association

Executive Notes

Your Provincial Executive Council met in St. John's on **October 17 and 18**. This issue of Executive Notes is intended to provide you with a summary of major decisions and discussions that occurred at this meeting.

For further information contact any member of Provincial Executive or the staff person as indicated.

Association Priorities for 2003-04
At the August Executive meeting Provincial Executive identified priorities for the 2003-04 school year and discussed issues that are expected to predominate activities for the coming school year. At the October meeting Executive reviewed the priorities document which had been further developed by administrative staff in line with the August discussions. Specific objectives have been identified under each priority. Discussion took place on status to date.

The five priorities are: negotiating a collective ag ement; teacher accountability/ assessment/ professionalism; curriculum issues; quality of teachers' work life; and membership awareness.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

President's Report
Since the beginning of the President's term of office he has visited a number of schools across the province, taken part in media training, and attended meetings in his role as President. He has done interviews with The Workers Voice magazine, VOCM on the issues of Special Needs students, collective bargaining preparation, school fees, the provincial election, and voiced back to school messages as well as commercials re making education a priority in the provincial election. He participated in a CBC in-studio panel re the debate among the party leaders, was interviewed by CBC concerning teacher supply and demand issues, group insurance trends, and wrote several letters to the editor on education concerns.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President.

Collective Bargaining Committee
The Collective Bargaining Committee reported to Provincial Executive on the status to date of the preparation of an opening package. The draft opening proposals were presented and reviewed for Executive by Ted Murphy, Chair of the Committee, and Perry Downey, Staff Consultant. Items noted by Provincial Executive regarding the opening proposals will be further considered by the Collective Bargaining Committee in the preparation of the final package. The Collective Bargaining Committee will also give consideration to having teacher certification levels and the accompanying salary credit reconfigured to include recognition of approved professional development programs in addition to university-based courses.

For further information contact Perry Downey, Benefits and Economic Services

Division.

Business from Standing Committees
TABLE OFFICERS
Provincial Executive authorized the establishment of an ad hoc committee on early career teachers to examine ways of improving the involvement of early career teachers in the Association and, in consultation with administrative staff of NLTA, consider how best to maintain and improve Association services to teachers in light of changing demographics and declining financial resources.

The Association will serve notice to open negotiations for a new collective agreement in the first week of November.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President, or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

COMMUNCIATIONS/POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE
The dates for Education Week 2004 will be March 7-13.

The Opening Ceremonies for Education Week 2004 will be held in Labrador.

The Honorary Chairperson for Education Week 2004 will be Dr. Alice Collins, Dean of Education, Faculty of Education, Memorial University of Newfoundland.

For further information contact Marilyn Bennett, Chair, Communications/Political Action Committee, Anne Perry, Chair, Education Week Committee, or Lesley-Ann Browne, Communications Officer.

Other Business
The Association will write the new Minister of Education outlining its concerns with the time frame for obtaining input from the membership and responding to the Graduation Requirements Review Consultation Paper.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or René Wicks, Professional Development Division.

The NLTA representatives on the CDLI/STEM~Net Board will discuss the concerns of teachers regarding the excessive amount of spam mail being received by teachers.
For further information contact Edward Hancock, Executive Director, or Alex Hickey, Co-ordinator, Virtual Teacher Centre.

The 2003-04 Group Insurance Board of Trustees are as follows:
Sean Noah (Chairperson), Linda Baillet, Bill Chaisson, Bill Day, Melanie Kavanagh, Art Windsor, Tina Ryan, Don Ash (NLTA Staff Consultant), and Jim Fox (NLTA Treasurer).

For further information contact Sean Noah, Chairperson or Don Ash, Benefits and Economic Services Division.

Discussion Topics
The following topics were reviewed by Provincial Executive for follow-up or future discussion: substitute teacher issues; French department head allowance; students assistants; Occupational Health and Safety Committees; STEM~Net; bomb threats and teacher responsibilities.

For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive

Director.

NEXT MEETING
The next regular meeting of Executive is scheduled for **November 13** and will be followed on the **14 and 15** by a Joint Council meeting. For further information contact Fred Douglas, President or Edward Hancock, Executive Director.

NLTA Committee Membership for 2003-04 (Executive and Staff)

PROVINCIAL EXECUTIVE 2003-05	
Fred Douglas President	fdouglas@nlta.nl.ca
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